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**Sheriff's Office receives state and national recognition for traffic safety efforts**

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office placed second in the 2007 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge and third in the National Law Enforcement Challenge for traffic safety initiatives. The Law Enforcement Challenge program promotes professionalism in traffic safety enforcement and encourages agencies to share their best practices and programs with other law enforcement agencies throughout the nation.

The Sheriff's Office was evaluated in several categories, including policies, officer training, incentives and recognition, public information and education, enforcement activity, and most importantly, results.



Sergeant J. Kirk Shaffier accepting state award in Hot Springs, Virginia early this month.

In 2007 a combination of effective programs resulted in a 5% decline in accident related injuries, a 3% decline in alcohol related crashes, a 33% decrease in alcohol related fatalities, and a 54% reduction in traffic fatalities where the lack of occupant protection usage was a contributing factor.

The recognition of the traffic safety strategy in Hanover County reinforces the efforts of our officers and reassures the citizens that initiatives are underway and on-going to make our roads safer.

The real award will be lives saved.